

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

F M Corp.

Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

FM Corporation Saves Energy with Help From Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

Client Profile:

FM Corporation, located in Rogers, Arkansas, was established in 1980 to make injection-molded plastic parts. These parts are manufactured on a made-to-order basis for medical and business machines. The company employs 150 people.

Situation:

FM Corporation became concerned with their rising energy cost. They decided to learn more about what they could do to control these cost by attending Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions' (AMS), a NIST MEP network affiliate, Energy Assessment 101 seminar presented by AMS Project Manager, Scotty McKnight. After the seminar, FM Corporation contacted Ms. McKnight to request assistance with an energy assessment in their facility.

Solution:

McKnight contacted the Oklahoma Industrial Assessment Center and the University of Arkansas which AMS has partnered with before to provide energy assessments within Arkansas. Dr. William Kolarik with the Oklahoma Industrial Assessment Center and Dr. Darin Nutter with the University of Arkansas organized a team of engineering students to conduct the energy assessment at FM Corporation facility. The energy assessment team led by Drs. Kolarik and Nutter first conducted a historical review of the plant's energy usage and utility cost. After this review, the energy assessment team performed an on-site study of the plant's processes and energy flows, identifying 10 potential energy efficiency measures (EEMs). These EEMs were then studied and evaluated for overall energy conservation and economic feasibility. After studying the identified EEMs, the team presented FM Corporation with nine EEMs that would pay for themselves in less than two years. In addition to the savings as a result of implementing the EEMs, McKnight was able to save FM Corporation \$8,000 by utilizing Industrial Assessment Center resources funded by the Department of Energy. FM Corporation has already started implementing the recommendations by upgrading their lighting in the manufacturing area, starting an air leak maintenance program, and adjusting operating hours on some equipment to lower the energy usage and demand during peak hours.

Results:

*Realized \$8,000 in cost savings.

*Potential savings of \$50,000 per year as a result of implementing the EEMs.

Testimonial:

"We have been pleased with our relationship with AMS. They are a helpful, professional and beneficial company. I would recommend this program for any business interested in minimizing their energy consumption."

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Becky Brothers , Industrial Engineer